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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1940

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WIGSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1940

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my second Annual Report on the health of your District.

The Ministry of Health have again requested that reports should be as brief as possible, and I have accordingly included only those matters which are necessary for the maintenance of continuity in the records of the district. For other matters reference should be made to my Annual Report for the year 1939 when a more detailed summary was given of the health and sanitary services of the area.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Committee and the officers and staff of the Council for their willing support during a busy and eventful year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

ALEC E. MARTIN,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	3,447
Population, Registrar General's estimate, 1940	12,990
Comparability factor	1.10
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1940) according to the Rate Books	4,203
Rateable value 1st April, 1940	£62,654
Sum represented by a penny rate	£237

Births	Male	Female	Total
Live Births			
Legitimate	103	110	213
Illegitimate	4	7	11
Total	107	117	224
Stillbirths (All legitimate)	1	4	5

Stillbirths, Rate per thousand total (live and still) births	21.8
Birth Rate per thousand estimated resident population 1940	17.3
Birth Rate for England and Wales 1940	14.6

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
	81	81	162

Death Rate per thousand estimated population	12.5
Standardised Death Rate	13.7
Death Rate for England and Wales	14.3

Deaths from Puerperal Causes	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Mortality Rate for England and Wales		2.16

Deaths of Infants under one year of age	11
Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births	49.1

There were no deaths of illegitimate infants during the year.

Causes of Death

	Male	Female	Total
Heart Disease.....	12	21	33
Cerebral vascular lesions.....	8	14	22
Cancer.....	10	11	21
Bronchitis.....	9	5	14
Pneumonia (all forms).....	5	3	8
Other digestive diseases.....	6	1	7
Peptic or duodenal ulcer.....	2	3	5
Congenital causes.....	3	2	5
Other circulatory diseases.....	3	2	5
Influenza.....	1	4	5
Tuberculosis (all forms)	2	3	5
Nephritis.....	1	2	3
Diabetes.....	3	0	3
Suicide.....	2	1	3
Road traffic accidents.....	2	1	3
Other violence.....	1	2	3
Other respiratory diseases.....	2	0	2
Infantile diarrhoea.....	1	0	1
Cerebro spinal fever.....	1	0	1
Diphtheria.....	0	0	0
Whooping cough.....	0	0	0
Measles.....	0	0	0
Other infectious diseases.....	0	0	0
Puerperal causes.....	0	0	0
Other causes.....	7	6	13
Total	81	81	162

VITAL STATISTICS DURING WAR TIME

The presence of a substantial proportion of the population in H.M. armed forces, and the transference of large sections of the community from evacuation areas to reception areas has created considerable difficulty in the maintenance of accurate statistical records in such a manner as to be comparable as far as possible with pre- war years.

The following changes have been made by the Registrar General commencing on October 1st, 1939.

1. Deaths in all males serving in H.M. armed forces are not included in local statistics but will be published as a separate class in the annual reports of the Registrar General.

2. In the case of a person dying who is temporarily residing away from home on account of the war, or in the case of a person dying in an institution, the death is assigned to the area of temporary residence and is not transferred to the area of the person's usual residence.

3. Births, for the purposes of calculating birth rates, are still transferred to the area of the mother's usual residence according to the pre-war practice.

For the purposes of calculating infant and maternal mortality however a second series of bith statistics is employed in which all births are assigned to the area in which the mother may be temporarily residing as a result of the war.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

I am indebted to the sanitary inspector Mr. F.B. Ashbridge for the following details.

Water Supply, Drainage and Sewage and Public Cleansing.

There have been no changes of importance in these services.

Closet Accommodation.

Total numbers in district on December 31st, 1940.

(a) Privies	-	Nil
(b) Pail Closets	-	24
(c) Water Closets	-	4,760

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total No. of complaints received during the year	112
" " " premises visited	572
" " " defects or nuisances discovered	220
" " " inspections	1,864
" " " notices served - Informal 187, Statutory 1	188
" " " " complied with " 187 " 1	188
" " " summons issued	Nil

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No. of Council Houses infested	7
No. of other dwelling houses found infested	13
No. of houses disinfested	20

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	292
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	690
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	40
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	120
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	21
(5) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers	21
(6) Number of defective dwelling houses in respect of which action under statutory powers was taken	Nil
(7) (a) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(b) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	3
(c) Number of persons concerned in these cases	25

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk:-

Retailers:- (other than cowkeepers)	No. on Register	68
	No. of inspections of premises	120
	No. of contraventions found	2
	No. of contraventions remedied	2
Producers:- (including those who retail milk)	No. on Register	19
	No. of inspections made	92
	No. of contraventions:-	
	Cleansing:	
	Found	7
	Remedied	7
	Structural Alterations:	
	Found	1
	Remedied	2
	Unsatisfactory Utensils:	
	Found	4
	Remedied	4

Milk Sampling

Four samples of designated milk and 104 of ordinary milk were examined and all except 6 of the latter were found to be satisfactory.

Meat and Other Foods.

All slaughter houses in the district are now closed and are only used for the purpose of slaughter under exceptional conditions after a permit has been granted by the Local Food Committee.

40 animals have been slaughtered in the district during the year, and all carcases were inspected. None were condemned.

Meat stalls:-

No. of inspections	36

Meat shops, stores etc:-

No. of inspections	62

Places where food (other than meat) is kept and prepared for sale:-

No. of inspections	46

Informal action has been taken with regard to cleansing of premises in 7 cases, refuse removed 12 cases and structural defects in 3 cases.

Knackers Yards:-

No. of inspections	42

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Apart from an epidemic of measles there has again been a remarkably low incidence of infectious disease.

The following table shows the number of cases notified during the year:-

	Total cases notified														
	Under 1 yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	All Ages	Cases adm. to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	8	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	2	-	12	3	1	3	1	1	-	29	18	-
Cerebro spinal fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Erysepilas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	3	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	8		8
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Measles	5	23	23	23	22	86	7	9	5	-	-	-	204	2	-
Whooping Cough	-	1	6	2	2	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-

The incidence of diphtheria is lower than for many years. One case which was notified in an immunized child was subsequently shown to be an error in diagnosis.

TUBERCULOSIS

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease during 1940 were as follows:-

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
5-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15-	1	1	-	2	-	2	-	1
25-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
65-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All ages	4	2	1	2	1	2	1	1

All the fatal cases had been previously notified.

EVACUATION

On 1st January, 1940 only 6 mothers and 33 children were billeted in the district, the majority of those who had been evacuated to Wigston at the beginning of the war having returned to their homes.

During the Autumn of 1940 further mass evacuations began to take place, the first contingent arriving at Wigston on September 22nd. Arrangements for reception were similar to those of the previous year.

At the end of December 1940 there were 1,112 evacuees in the Wigston district.

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